

Listing of Claims:

The claims have not been amended by this response. However, a current set of claims is provided below for reference:

1. (Previously presented) A method of accessing electronic data from a communications system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user, the first account of the user being maintained by the host system;

determining if one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user;

initiating a first communication session between the client system and the host system over the connection, the first communication session being associated with the first account of the user;

based on a determination that one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user, automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system, the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user; and

for each of the one or more additional accounts, enabling a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a corresponding designated destination in response to automatically initiating the one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing electronic data associated with the first account of the user.

3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises retrieving e-mail.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises sending e-mail.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises downloading one or more files.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises retrieving messages posted on a message board.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises posting messages to a message board.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first account and the one or more additional accounts comprise different screen names.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein automatically initiating one or more additional communication sessions comprises automatically switching between the different screen names.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising setting preferences for initiating the first communication session.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein setting preferences comprises scheduling a time to initiate the first communication session.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising setting preferences for initiating the one or more additional communication sessions.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein setting preferences comprises scheduling a time to automatically initiate the one or more additional communications session.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising setting different preferences for initiating the first communication session and for initiating the one or more additional communication sessions.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first communication session is initiated automatically.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising running the first communication session and the one or more additional communication sessions in parallel.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user comprises a single member of an online service.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user comprises multiple members of the online service.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the multiple members are related.

22. (Previously presented) A computer program product tangibly embodied in a computer-readable medium, the computer program product including instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

establish a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user, the first account of the user being maintained by the host system;

determine if one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user;

initiate a first communication session between the client system and the host system over the connection, the first communication session being associated with the first account of the user;

based on a determination that one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user, automatically initiate, over the same connection between the client system and to the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system, the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user; and

for each of the one or more additional accounts, enable a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a corresponding designated destination in response to automatically initiating the one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the computer to:  
access e-mail data.

25. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the computer to:  
download one or more files.

26. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the first account and the one or more additional accounts comprise different screen names.

27. (Previously presented) A communications apparatus for accessing electronic data from a communications system, the apparatus being configured to:

establish a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user, the first account of the user being maintained by the host system;

determine if one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user;

initiate a first communication session between the client system and the host system over the connection, the first communication session being associated with the first account of the user;

based on a determination that one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user, automatically initiate, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system, the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user; and

for each of the one or more additional accounts, enable a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a designated destination in response to automatically initiating the one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically initiating comprises automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system, the one or more additional communication sessions associated with the one or more additional accounts in response to a preference set by the user prior to initiation of the one or more additional communication sessions.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein authentication information associated with the one or more additional accounts may be used to enable access to the host system.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein authentication information associated with each of the one or more additional accounts may be used to enable access to the host system.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein authentication information associated with the first account and at least one of the one or more additional accounts may be used to enable access to the host system.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein establishing the connection between a the client system and the host system and initiating a first communication session between the client system and the host system over the connection occur automatically and without user manipulation.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system, occurs automatically and without user manipulation.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically synchronizing data related to the first account or the one or more additional accounts wherein, prior to synchronization, the data related to the first account or the one or more additional accounts was stored on only one of the client system or the host system.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein synchronizing data comprises one or more of sending an e-mail message written using the client system when the client system was not connected to the host system, retrieving from the host system an unread e-mail message, posting a message to a newsgroup or message board that was written using the client system when the client system was not connected to the host system, and retrieving from the host system a message to a newsgroup or message board.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein automatically synchronizing data related to each of several accounts associated with the user.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the host system is a network access service provider that provides network access service to enable the user to access systems other than the host system,  
the first account corresponds to a first e-mail account of the user provided by the host system, and  
one of the one or more additional accounts corresponds to an additional e-mail account provided by the host system.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the host system is a network access service provider that provides network access service to enable the user to access systems other than the host system,  
the first account corresponds to a first screen name for an instant messaging service provided by the host system, and  
one of the one or more additional accounts corresponds to an additional screen name for the instant messaging service provided by the host system.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the host system is a network access service provider that provides network access service to enable the user to access systems other than the host system,  
one of the first account or at least one of the one or more additional accounts corresponds to a screen name for an instant messaging service provided by the host system, and  
other of the first account or the at least one of the one or more additional accounts correspond to an e-mail account provided by the host system.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional

communication sessions between the client system and the host system comprises automatically initiating at least one of the one or more additional communication sessions when the user is not present at the client system.